

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives feel it is altogether fitting and proper to pause from time to time to recognize individuals and organizations that have contributed to the welfare of this great state and its citizens, particularly those engaged in the field of law enforcement; and

Whereas, the members now pause to recognize the Springfield Police Department, which is observing its one hundred fiftieth anniversary with a special celebration planned for May 7, 2008, in front of the Old Calaboose; and

Whereas, in 1858, with a population of 1,200 citizens, Springfield, Missouri, established its first police force, consisting of a Marshal and two officers, and today, the Springfield Police Department serves a city of over 160,000 residents with an authorized force of 325 sworn officers and eighty support staff; and

Whereas, during its one hundred fifty years, the Springfield Police Department has known the danger, heart-break, and victories that are part and parcel of law enforcement; and

Whereas, some of its more colorful events in the Springfield Police Department's history include the "Young Massacre," one of the most infamous crimes in law enforcement history, which occurred in 1932 when four Springfield officers, the sheriff, and his deputy were killed during a gun battle with two brothers; and

Whereas, in 1933, motorcycle Officer Tom Persell was kidnapped by Bonnie and Clyde, and he was later released unharmed in Joplin, Missouri; and

Whereas, in 1997, the Greene County Law Enforcement Tax Initiative expanded a new jointly operated county-city jail, developed a county-wide communications system, and put more officers on the street for the entire county, and the Police Department became an Accredited Law Enforcement Agency through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies; and

Whereas, on November 10, 2003, the International Association of Chiefs of Police Community Policing Committee announced the Springfield Police Department was a finalist in a world-wide competition among law enforcement agencies that recognizes outstanding community policing initiatives:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, join to extend our most sincere congratulations to the members of the Springfield Police Department on the illustrious occasion of its one hundred fiftieth anniversary, with our best wishes for every success in the future; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the Springfield Police Department.

Offered by _____
Representative Bob Dixon
District No. 140

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session,
do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House
Resolution No. 2321, adopted April 28, 2008.

Rod Jetton, Speaker